

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 27 are pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection in view of the remarks contained herein.

DOUBLE PATENTING

Claims 17 through 27 stand rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 through 4, 6, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16 and 18 of U.S. Patent No. 6,721,675. This rejection is respectfully rendered moot.

Applicant has attached herewith a terminal disclaimer that complies with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c). Applicant submits that the present application and the '675 patent are commonly owned by The Boeing Company. Applicant has also attached herewith a copy of the document assigning the patent application that matured to the '675 patent as evidence of co-ownership, along with a statement under 37 C.F.R. 3.73(b). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of Claims 17 through 27 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 1 through 16 stand allowed.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 22, 2004

By: 
Michael D. Zalobsky
Reg. No. 45,512

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600